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THERE ARE NO SUCH WORDS AS SAFE OR SECURE IN THE LEXICON OF THE BATMAN! ON EVERY PATROL, THE INVISIBLE TWIN VULTURES OF DEATH AND DISASTER ARE OVERHEAD... WING-IN-WING IN GRIM EXPECTANCY, BIDING THEIR TIME.
THIS IS THE NIGHT THEY WERE WAITING FOR-- THE NIGHT THEY SWOOPED DOWN TO FLY ESCORT ON AN ODYSSEY...
"TO HELL WITH BATMAN-- AND BACK!"
DON'T MAKE A MOVE, TRUCKERS--OR YOU'LL GET IT THE WAY THE BATMAN'S GONNA GET IT!
BANG BANG
S-2929
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AN ANONYMOUS TIP ON A HIJACKING -- A STAKE-OUT-- THEN THIS...
THOMP
WAK
I TOOK DEAD AIM AT BATS-- AND MISSED?!
I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANY CHANCE TO DO BETTER!
TRUCKERS-- TAKE COVER!
WHAM
WAK
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I HATE...
...WORSE THAN GUNS...
...IT'S GUNMEN!
2

WHAM
KRAAM
KRAAAAK
GOOD SHOT, MOKE-- AND JUST IN TIME! THE BATMAN ALMOST HAD US!
THAT DOES IT! I'LL RIDE IN THE BACK WITH THE BODY!
FIVE STAR TRUCKING
LET'S ROLL!
3

AN INDETERMINATE PERIOD PASSES... A TIME OF DARKNESS AND SILENCE.. THEN FROM AN INCALCULABLE DISTANCE, A NEBULOUS GLOW OF LIGHT...THE SHRIEK OF A COLD, COLD WIND--
--AND SLOWLY A VAGUE SENSE OF AWARENESS FORMS...
I... I'M FLOATING!-- WEIGHTLESS!
MY ARMS... CAN HARDLY MOVE THEM! THEY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN FROZEN IN THIS POSITION A LONG TIME!
LAST THING I REMEMBER... COLD STEEL AGAINST MY FINGERTIPS...
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?
EVERYTHING IS A BLANK... EVEN WHAT I SEE OF MYSELF IS BLURRED AND MISTED...
IF ONLY THIS HELLISH WIND WOULD STOP!
AT THAT MOMENT-- AS THOUGH HIS THOUGHT HAD WILLED IT...
THE WIND STOPPED! AND I'M NO LONGER FLOATING! IT'S AS IF I HAD LANDED ON SOMETHING I BARELY FEEL! MY LIMBS ARE AS NUMB AS MY BRAIN!
THE NEXT INSTANT-- CONSTERNATION...
GREAT GOD! I'M NOT CASTING ANY SHADOW! AS THOUGH I WERE--
AND THEN, WITH SUDDEN, HORRIFYING CLARITY--
--A SIGHT NO MORTAL MAN EVER EXPECTS TO SEE!
I'M DEAD! I'M A GHOST!
4
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BUT WITH THE TICK OF A MOMENT IN THE TIMELESS CLOCK OF ETERNITY...
MY BODY DISAPPEARING--MELTING AWAY--TURNING TO NOTHINGNESS!
IT'S AS THOUGH I'M BEING TOLD I'VE MOVED ON TO ANOTHER ASTRAL PLANE--TO A REALM WHERE SUBSTANCE NO LONGER EXISTS FOR ME--
--BECAUSE MY DEATH HAS FINALLY COME... AND I MUST ACCEPT IT!
SUDDENLY-- MATERIALIZING IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...
TWO SHADES FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD... LIKE ME... YET UNLIKE ME--BECKONING--
--TO FOLLOW THEM... WHERE--?
'ABRUPTLY--
--I'M PASSING THROUGH IT!
THEY LED ME TO THIS IMMENSE IRON GATEWAY--
THEY'RE GONE!
5

AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GREAT GATEWAY...
WH-WHAT IS THIS?!?
AT ONCE EVERYTHING COALESCES-- TO BECOME --
FRANCHON PLACE... IN GOTHAM CITY!
THIS MAN--COMING DIRECTLY AT ME!
GASP!
HE WALKED RIGHT THROUGH ME!
OF COURSE! WHAT ELSE DID I EXPECT?
THE NEXT INCREDIBLE MOMENT...
FIRST AVENUE! HOW--WHY AM I HERE?
A MAN RUNNING TOWARDS ME--WITH A PISTOL IN HIS HAND!
ANOTHER ONE! THEY'RE GUNNING FOR EACH OTHER!
IT'S A SHOOTOUT!
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BLAM
THEIR BULLETS-- GOING THROUGH ME!
BLAM
ARRROGHH
THIS ONE... KILLED!
AND ONCE AGAIN-- EVERYTHING DISSOLVES..
WHO WERE THEY? WHY WAS I CAUSED TO WITNESS A MURDER? WAS I INTENDED TO STOP IT?
THERE MUST BE A MEANING TO ALL THIS!
I CAN SEE--THEN I CAN'T! MY MIND CLEARS -- AND FOGS UP AGAIN!
MAYBE I'M LEARNING TO BE A GHOST -- WHAT MY POWERS ARE... HOW TO USE THEM...
WHERE'S THE BATMAN GOING NOW?
NOWHERE-- NOT TILL I PUT HIM THROUGH HIS PACES AGAIN! I WANT HIM ABSOLUTELY READY FOR EXECUTION WHEN I LET HIM OUT!
WHOSE VOICES ARE THOSE? WHAT IN THIS WORLD--AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, IT IS IN THIS WORLD--IS GOING ON HERE?
7

THE FEARFUL ANSWER SHOULD SCARCELY COME AS A SURPRISE TO KNOWLEDGEABLE STUDENTS OF--
--HIS INFERNAL MAJESTY--
--THE SPOOK!
SENSATIONAL, SPOOK! THE MOST DIABOLICAL ASSAULT EVER LAUNCHED AGAINST THE BATMAN!
TRUE ENOUGH! I HAVE FULFILLED MY PROMISE TO ASTOUND AND DELIGHT YOU!
BUT YOU ALSO PROMISED TO EXPLAIN! ALL WE KNOW ABOUT IT IS SITTING HERE AND PUSHING BUTTONS!
BY ALL MEANS! --TO ADD TO YOUR ENJOYMENT OF WHAT IS YET TO COME!
KEEP THE TAPE AND CAMERAS ROLLING! I'LL FLOAT HIM AGAIN FOR A FEW MINUTES! ENGAGE THE AIRLOCK!
A MAGNIFICENT EFFECT ...PRODUCED BY AN ADAPTATION OF THE HOVERCRAFT PRINCIPLE--
--A FLOORING PERFORATED BY THOUSANDS OF MINISCULE AIRHOLES, WITH ENOUGH PRESSURE TO FLOAT A TRUCK!
THE DIFFUSED LIGHTING-- EQUALLY INTENSE IN EVERY DIRECTION -- ERASES ALL SHADOW!
BUT NEITHER THESE NOR ANY OF MY OTHER APPARENTLY SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA COULD WORK WERE IT NOT FOR THE CONTENTS OF THIS VIAL!
THE STUFF WE SAW YOU PUT IN THE BATMAN'S EYES?
YES! A VARIANT OF $CCl_3CH(OH_2)$* WHICH FORMS AN UNDETECTABLE, UNSTABLE MENISCUS** OVER THE EYE, CAUSING TACTILE ANESTHESIA AND FLUCTUATING VISUAL DISTORTION --
--A LENS THAT KEEPS MELTING AT BODY HEAT-- THUS CONTINUOUSLY CHANGING AND RELEASING THE DRUG AS IT MELTS!
8
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YOU EXPECT US TO UNDERSTAND THAT? C'MON, SPOOK--SPEAK ENGLISH!
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY--HE CAN'T SEE OR FEEL OR THINK STRAIGHT!
ORDINARY HYPNOSIS CAN'T GET TO HIM, BUT IN HIS STATE, SUGGESTION CAN--ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S BASED ON PHYSICAL EVIDENCE!
"NOW HE'S FLOATING THROUGH THE IRONWORK GATE THAT LOOKS AND IS REAL--REAL ELASTICIZED METALLIC PLASTIC..."
"...UNFELT BY HIM AND OFFERING NO RESISTANCE WHATEVER!"
"THE DEAD BATMAN BODY AND OTHER GHOSTS WERE ALSO REAL--OUR OWN PEOPLE, OF COURSE--BUT THE LENS ACTION MADE THEM SEEM TO VANISH..."
"SIMILARLY, THE TWO GUNMEN WERE REAL--BUT THEY WERE SHOOTING BLANKS!"
WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED THROUGH HIM?
PURE PHANTASMAGORIA--A COMPLEX OPTICAL EFFECT TO WHICH HE IS NOW PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE!
OBSERVE! I'LL SWITCH TO STAGE FOUR--AND--
IN SHORT, THE BATMAN'S A HELPLESS SUCKER FOR ALL SORTS OF STUNTS ONE COULD NEVER HOPE TO PULL ON HIM NORMALLY!
HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?
SEVERAL HOURS--TIME ENOUGH! NOW LET'S FINISH HIS INDOCTRINATION!
"HE FINDS HIMSELF ON LAUREL DRIVE! PARTS OF THIS SET ARE REAL--THE REST IS ALL REAR PROJECTION..."
"...NOW FROM A CAMERA THAT DUPLICATES HIS POINT OF VIEW..."
9

"...WATCH THIS CAR AS IT SEEMS TO SPEED TOWARD HIM!..."
"WOULDN'T YOU SWEAR THAT CAR JUST DROVE THROUGH HIM?"
"ESPECIALLY IF YOU INSTANTLY SPUN ABOUT--LIKE THIS--"
"--AND SAW THE CAR RIDING AWAY?"
NOW THAT HE'S PRIMED FOR THE KILL, LET HIM MEET HIS APPOINTED FATE!
EASE THE AIRLOCK--THEN INTO POSITION FOR THE GRAND FINALE!
LAUREL DRIVE'S DISAPPEARED... AND I'M WALKING AGAIN!
A HAZE OF LIGHT AHEAD!
MINUTES PASS--OR IS IT HOURS?
WHERE... AM... I... NOW--?
THEN--A PARTIAL ANSWER...
...A PIER!
10

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MIRROR, MIRROR ON MY CHEST, SHOW GREEN LANTERN I'M THE BEST. HA! HA!
THE JOKE'S ON YOU, GREENIE...
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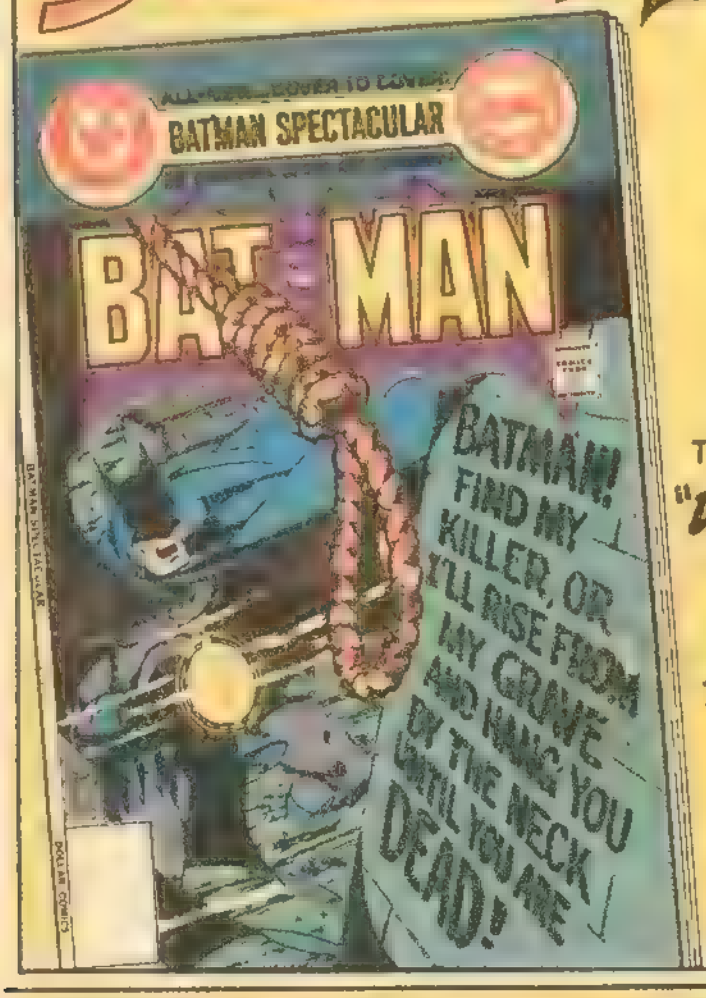

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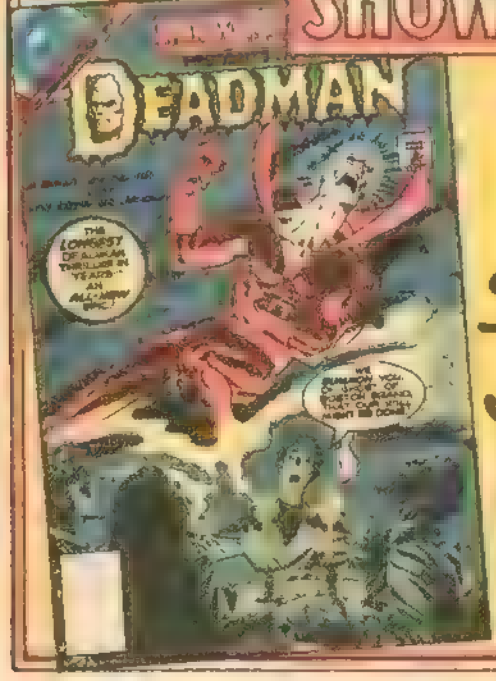

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UTTERLY BEWILDERED, THE MASKED MANHUNTER WANDERS DOWN THE PIER--OVERWHELMED BY RANDOM, DISCONNECTED THOUGHTS...
WONDER IF THEY'VE FOUND MY BODY YET? HOW WILL ROBIN TAKE THE NEWS?... AND ALFRED... AND GORDON--?
FOOTSTEPS BEHIND ME--!
DIAMOND JOCK CAFFERTY--THE SYNDICATE ENFORCER!
HE SEEMS TO BE LOOKING DIRECTLY AT ME! CAN HE SEE ME? HAVE I BECOME VISIBLE?
I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS, BATMAN!
HISTORIC WORDS, THOSE! EVIDENTLY I APPEAR REAL ENOUGH TO HIM--BUT WAIT TILL HE TRIES THAT POPGUN ON ME!
BAM BAM
FOR A SPLIT SECOND, THE BATMAN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK--
--BUT HE DOES KNOW WHAT NOT TO THINK--
BAM BAM
--THAT HE IS A GHOST!
11

SUDDENLY--
GOT HIM!
WHAT THE --?
OUT OF THE WAY, CAFFERTY!
AIM THAT CAMERA DOWN AT THE WATER! GET THE BUBBLES COMING UP!
THERE AIN'T NO BUBBLES, SPOOK! THE CURRENT MUST'VE CARRIED HIM DOWN-RIVER!
TERRIBLE LUCK! I WANTED SOME FOOTAGE OF HIS CORPSE LAID OUT ON THE PIER, AND DIAMOND JOCK STANDING OVER HIM!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WERE YOU TAKING PICTURES OF ME KILLING THE BATMAN?
RIGHT, JOCK! YOU ARE NOW A VITAL PART OF A DOCUMENTARY TITLED, "THE BATMAN GOES TO HELL!"
YOU PAID ME 50 G'S FOR A GUARANTEED SAFE SETUP OF THE BATMAN--AND I NOT ONLY DELIVERED, I MADE YOU A STAR!
UNDER THE PIER, A THOROUGHLY BAFFLED BUT FASCINATED AUDIENCE LISTENS IN..
YOU CRAZY, SPOOK? SURE I WANT THE CREDIT FOR KNOCKING HIM OFF--AND I'LL SPREAD THE WORD--BUT THAT'S EVIDENCE --MURDER ONE!
DON'T LET THAT BOTHER YOU, JOCK! ACTUALLY, THIS DOCUMENTARY WILL PROVE YOU WERE MERELY MY INSTRUMENT--

--AND THE CREDIT WILL GO WHERE IT BELONGS--
--TO ME!
ZOK
HE'S STILL ALIVE! SHOULD WE DUMP HIM IN THE DRINK AND LET HIM DROWN?
WHAT FOR? TO RAP US WITH A MURDER ONE— ON TAPE?
LEAVE HIM HERE, BUT TAKE HIS GUN-- THE SOON-TO-BE NOTORIOUS MURDER WEAPON! IT'LL BE WORTH A FORTUNE AT AUCTION!
RUNNING FOOTSTEPS REVERBERATING... RETREATING ON THE BOARDS ABOVE -- THEN SILENCE...
THERE THEY GO... AND NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT!
SO IT WAS THE SPOOK BEHIND EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME!
MY IMMERSION IN SALT WATER SEEMS TO HAVE HELPED MY VISION ... AS THOUGH A VEIL WAS SLOWLY LIFTING FROM MY EYES... AND MY MIND...
BUT I STILL HAVEN'T THE VAGUEST NOTION OF HOW I GOT TO THIS PIER... OR FROM WHERE!
THE ONLY WAY I CAN HOPE TO UNRAVEL THIS IS TO FIND THE SPOOK!
TALK ABOUT A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK--I'VE GOT A WHOLE CITY TO SEARCH!
WHERE DO I BEGIN?

HESITANTLY AT FIRST, BUT WITH STEADILY MOUNTING VIGOR AND CLARITY, THE BATMAN LEAVES THE PIER... CROSSES THE LONG-UNUSED ADJACENT RAILROAD YARDS--
--AND COMES TO AN ABRUPT HALT!
IT'S COMING BACK! THE PHONY HIJACKING--THE AMBUSH--I GOT ZONKED OUT!
NEXT THING--I WAS FLOATING IN MIDAIR... REMEMBERING COLD STEEL AGAINST MY FINGERTIPS--
--MY ARMS OUTSTRETCHED LIKE THIS... ABOUT 4 3/4 FEET APART--ALMOST EXACTLY THE STANDARD RAILROAD TRACK GAUGE!
THERE MUST BE A CONNECTION! AT SOME POINT EARLIER TONIGHT--I WAS IN THESE YARDS!
AND ALL THE RAILS HERE LEAD TO ONLY ONE CENTRAL PLACE--THE ROUNDHOUSE!
AND INSIDE THAT ROUNDHOUSE, A SCENE OF FEVERISH, JUBILANT ACTIVITY IS SWIFTLY DRAWING TO A CLOSE!...
THE TRUCKS JUST LEFT, SPOOK--FLOORINGS, AIR-COMPRESSORS, SCREENS, PROJECTORS, LIGHTS--ALL GONE!
ACTORS AND CREW LIKEWISE... WE'RE THE LAST ONES HERE!
SPLENDID! LET'S GET THIS CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND SPLIT!
CAREFUL WITH THESE TAPES! OUR DOCUMENTARY WILL PREMIERE FOR THE CREAM OF CRIMINAL SOCIETY AT 25 BIG ONES A SEAT!
GREAT, SPOOK! WHEN?
THAT DEPENDS ON WHEN THE BATMAN'S BODY FINALLY GETS WASHED UP FROM THE BAY!
14
CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING

YOUR HERO ADDS ZAP, SPARKLE TO YOUR ROOM

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Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman © D C Comics, Inc. 1977

HA HA HA HA HA HA
MILK DUDS SUPERDU

EAT THIS, YOU LILY-LIVERED SUPER-DO-GOODERS!!!

Superduds of America, unite! Evildoers, take heart!

If all those (yecch!) superheroes can have their own sweepstakes, so can we. So there.

See the Infamous Milk Duds Superduds Sweepstakes entry blank? Of course you do. Just fill it out and put it in the mailbox.

And I never thought I'd be saying this, but be sure you follow all the rules. Or else.

A SUPERVILLAINOUS PLOT!

For you Milk Duds, Slo Poke, and Black Cow eaters out there, we're giving away a special super-speed Superdudprize. (Read all about it, a little later on.)

In the incomparably devious and fiendishly clever tradition of our dishonorable profession, we've also arranged to smuggle your entry into the Famous Clark Bar Superhero Sweepstakes. Where you'll have a chance to win all sorts of goodies at their expense.

And the first wise guy who says "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em" is going to get it, pow, right in the kisser.

THE DEVIOUS DIVIDENDS OF DUD-DOM!

Now for the spoils of victory. The rich rewards of wretchedness.

If you hit it really lucky and win first prize, you and your family (limit four people) will get to fly to New York City and back.

You'll stay for three days and two nights. All expenses paid.

You'll be taken on a personal tour of the DC Comics offices, where an artist will draw you right into an upcoming issue of your favorite DC comic. You'll be part of the action, along with one of the famous DC superheroes. (So, big deal.)

You'll have plenty of free time in Gotham, too. For seeing the Statue of Liberty, or taking boat rides, or just looking up at tall buildings a lot and saying "Wow!"

And, just as soon as your comic-book caper is published, you'll get 15 copies for your family and crummy friends. They'll be proud to know a famous person like you.

If you happen to be one of the 20 second-prize winners, you'll get your own Famous Superhero (Boo! Hiss!) or Infamous Superdud watch.

You'll have your pick of the ugly mugs of

!! IT'S THE INFAMOUS UDS SWEEPSTAKES!

e Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, or Spider-Man. Or (for those of you with refined tastes) the villainous visage of the Joker.

The watches are Swiss-made, with pictures in full color, and sell (a real steal) for $19.95 and $23.95.

If you should be one of 100 third-prize winners, you'll get a year's subscription to your favorite DC or Marvel comic book. Ms. Marvel, Green Lantern, Thor, The Incredible Hulk, Captain America, Red Sonja, Plastic Man, Wonder Woman, Justice Society, you name it. Even that namby-pamby Little Lulu.

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Okay. We promised. So here it is. In addition to drawings for the prizes you've just read about, everybody who enters the Infamous Milk Duds Superduds Sweepstakes automatically gets entered in a special drawing. And ten of those people, maybe even you, will win themselves Schwinn ten-speed bicycles. Good for escaping from overzealous superheroes.

Of course, wrappers from Milk Duds, Slo Poke or Black Cow can also help you get all kinds of super premiums. Details are in the Famous Clark Bar ads.

So find yourself a pen or pencil, fill out the entry blank—the (ugh!) rules say you've got to print—and mail your entry back before November 1, 1978.

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2. Will each entry send one wrapper from any Holloway or Leaf candy product other than MILK DUDS (please, no paper pieces of 3 x 5 paper) or a facsimile. Wrappers from Slo Poke, Black Cow, Crispy, Zagnut, [illegible]
3. [illegible] Superduds Sweepstakes, Box SS Chicago, [illegible]
4. [illegible] must be postmarked by November 1, 1978 and received by November [illegible], 1978. [illegible] will be held on or about December [illegible], 1978 at the offices of [illegible] Chicago, Illinois, under the supervision of [illegible]
5. [illegible] prizes as stated below. Only one prize per family. The [illegible] will be determined by the number of entries received. All prizes will be awarded.
6. This sweepstakes is open to residents of the United States, except employees and their immediate families of Leaf, Inc., its advertising agencies and the Ogilvy & Mather Company and void in Missouri, and wherever else prohibited by law. Subject to all federal, state and local laws and regulations.
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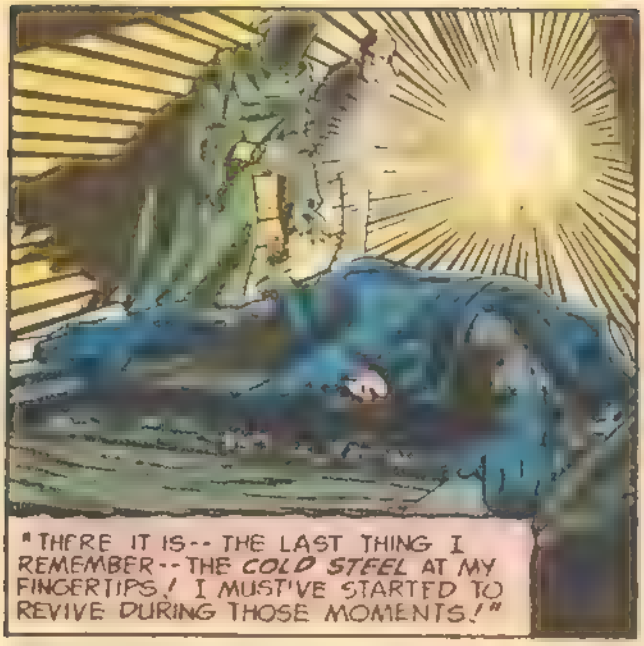
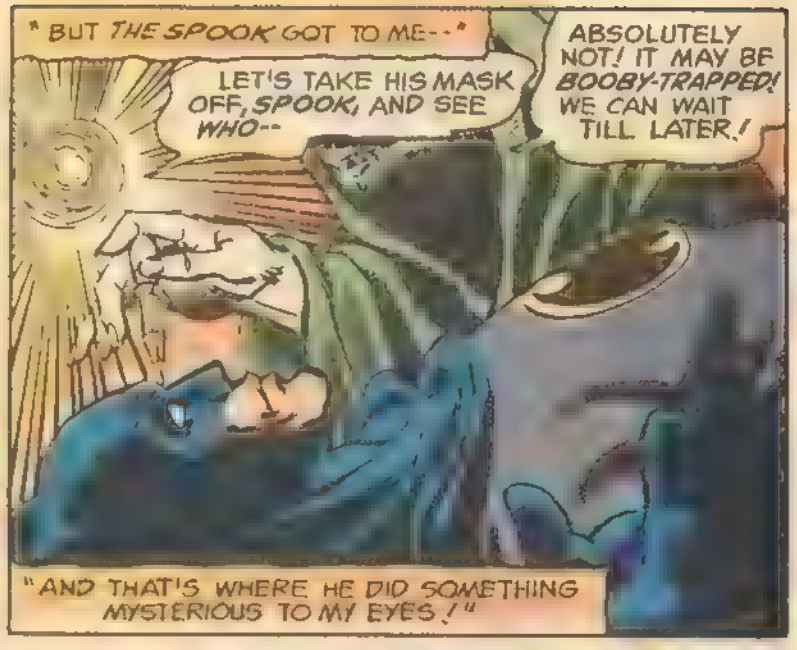
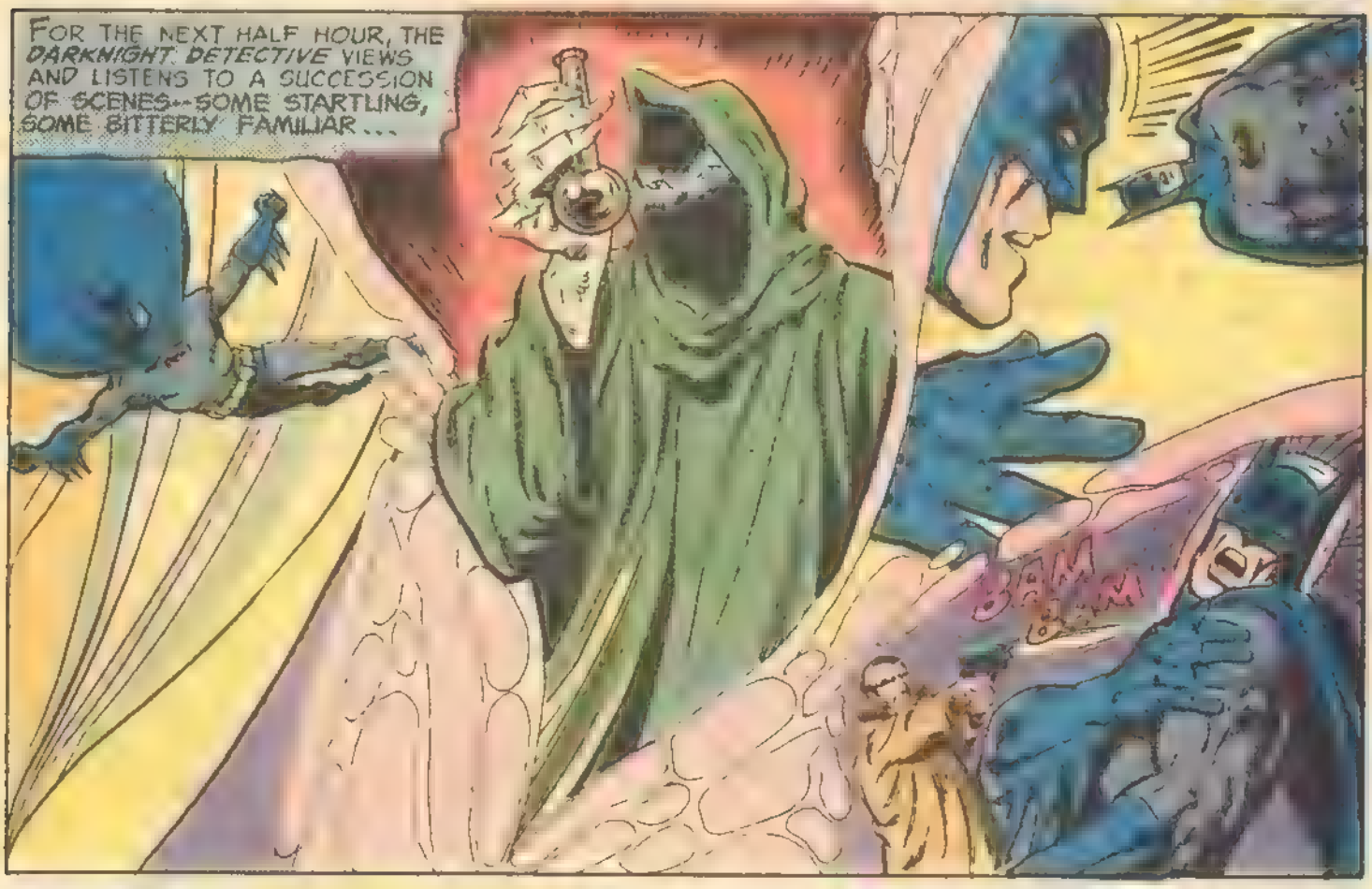
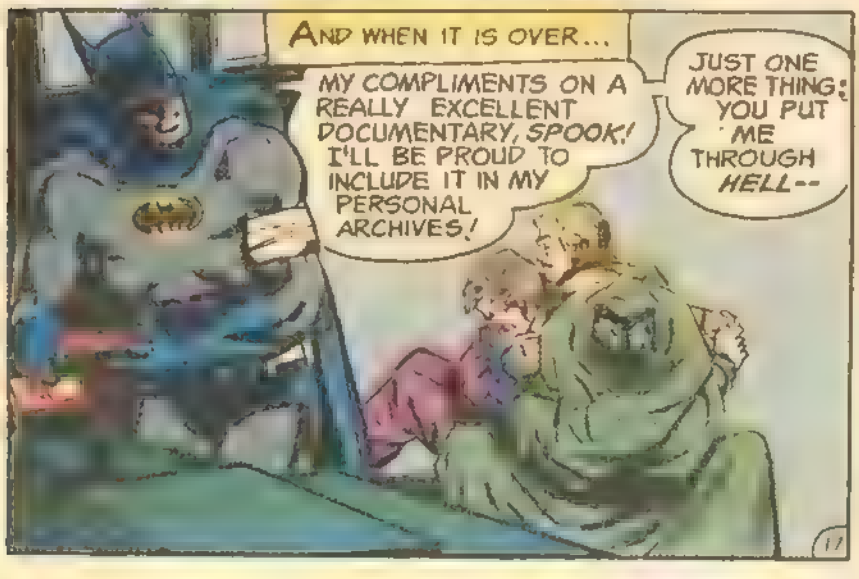
AT WHICH POINT-- RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY-- THE BATMAN'S BODY ARRIVES!...
SPEAKING OF WASHED UP--
THE BATMAN-- ALIVE?!
NO!
WHY DO YOU SAY NO-- WHEN THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUSLY YES!
ZOK
CRUNCH
YOU THOUGHT I WAS A GHOST ONCE BEFORE, REMEMBER--?
* "THE HAUNTING OF THE SPOOK!" --BATMAN #276! -- JULIE
WHAM
KONK
KONG
MAYBE YOU NEED YOUR MEMORY JARRED--!

SO HERE'S SOME JARRING-- THOUGH I MUST APOLOGIZE--
WHUM!
--FOR USING ONLY ONE HAND--
--BUT--
WHAM
--TWO FEET!
SHORTLY AFTERWARD...
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT'S ON THESE TAPES! UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR PLANNED PREMIERE HAS BEEN REDUCED TO A PRIVATE SCREENING!
AND MOMENTS LATER, THE BATMAN ABSORBEDLY BEGINS TO WATCH THE STILL-UNKNOWN CHAPTER OF HIS LIFE-- AND DEATH!...
HE'S MOVING, SPOOK!
PUT HIM DOWN-- FAST!
I WAS RIGHT! THE SUPPOSEDLY HIJACKED TRUCK BROUGHT ME DIRECTLY TO THE YARDS!

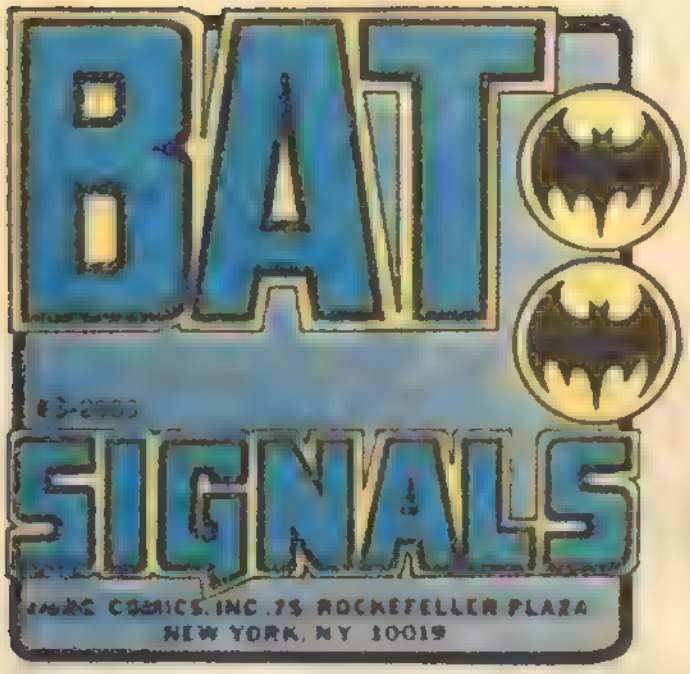

"THERE IT IS -- THE LAST THING I REMEMBER -- THE COLD STEEL AT MY FINGERTIPS! I MUST'VE STARTED TO REVIVE DURING THOSE MOMENTS!"


"BUT THE SPOOK GOT TO ME--"
LET'S TAKE HIS MASK OFF, SPOOK, AND SEE WHO--
ABSOLUTELY NOT! IT MAY BE BOOBY-TRAPPED! WE CAN WAIT TILL LATER!
"AND THAT'S WHERE HE DID SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS TO MY EYES!"


FOR THE NEXT HALF HOUR, THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE VIEWS AND LISTENS TO A SUCCESSION OF SCENES--SOME STARTLING, SOME BITTERLY FAMILIAR...
BAM
BOOM


AND WHEN IT IS OVER...
MY COMPLIMENTS ON A REALLY EXCELLENT DOCUMENTARY, SPOOK! I'LL BE PROUD TO INCLUDE IT IN MY PERSONAL ARCHIVES!
JUST ONE MORE THING: YOU PUT ME THROUGH HELL--
11

--BUT I'M SURE GLAD I MADE IT BACK!
NEXT: THE ODDS ARE AGAINST THE BATMAN IN DEATH-GAMBLE OF A DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE!" ON SALE THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST!



Dear Editor:

BATMAN #'s 298 and 299 mark the return of something too-long missing from the comics scene: the David V. Reed detective story. Mr. Reed handles the costumed villains well enough, but it is in depicting *The Batman* as a detective that he excels. "Case of the Crimson Coffin" and "Island of the Purple Mist" combined as one of his better stories and for many good reasons: the complex and involved plotline, the bizarre occurrences with their logical explanations, the fast-paced action, the deft characterization, and the incisive detective work. But what is most impressive is, as always, his portrayal of *The Batman* himself. The total confidence and self-assurance of the character is enough to terrorize any crook. you can't believe that there is any situation that *The Batman* can't master. Indeed, Mr. Reed makes him too impressive, everything seems almost too easy for *The Batman*.

Unfortunately, I find the artwork detracting from the story. While John Calnan is certainly a competent artist, he lacks the inspiration of such as Adams, Aparo and Rogers.

RICK PETERSON
2533 Hillegass #305
Berkeley, CA 94704

Everybody has their favorite Bat-artist, Rick. And with the number of Bat-books around, we try to get all the favorites into action!—BR

. . . . .

Dear Bat-People:

BATMAN #299 was terrific! I loved the way David V. Reed mingled the traditional *Batman* (battling weird cults) with the arsenal of the middle years (the use of the Bat-copter was timely without seeming campy) and the style of today.

John Calnan and Dick Giordano's artwork depicted the Caped Crusader just as I like him. Dick's inking gives the series that touch of realism it needs.

JOHN HEBERT
75 W. Sand Lake Rd.
Troy, NY 12180

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

After a rather prolonged absence from comic commenting, I finally feel the need to write again. After all, five years is a long time.

BATMAN #299 took a step backwards from its usual excellence and this is a shame. John Calnan, who can handle other super-heroes quite adequately, is not my idea of *the Batman* artist! (On the other hand, Michael Golden is! Why not get him out of *BATMAN FAMILY* and into *BATMAN?)*

But other than my disappointment with the art, "Island of the Purple Mist" was an intriguing and well-plotted story, with the necessary twists and tremendous action. The Baxter Banes angle was at once humorous and upsetting (who wants our hero's identity smeared all over the morning newspapers?) and handled very nicely.

All in all, though, it was a wonderful story to return to the cherished order of comic fandom on. Thanks a million.

GAIL BURT
1971 N. Wilcox Ave.
Hollywood, CA 90068

Welcome back, Gail—and though your typewriter has been silent these five years, we hope you haven't missed reading BATMAN!—BR

. . . . .

Dear DC,

Keep John Calnan as the artist in *BATMAN*. Dick Giordano is an excellent choice as his inker and the art on the book is beautiful by this combo.

STEPHEN SIEGFORTH
5K Lake Ridge Pl.
Cockeysville, MD 21030

John will be around, Stephen—and for those who enjoy a variety of interpretations we point out that Michael Golden handles The Batman in BATMAN FAMILY, Marshall Rogers is penciller in DETECTIVE and Jim Aparo handled the Bat-team-ups in BRAVE & BOLD! And then, of course, there's always extras, like Walt Simonson's pencils on BATMAN #300, Mike Nasser's rendition in the upcoming BATMAN SPECTACULAR, and Don Newton's handling of an "Unsolved Case" next issue!—BR

. . . . .

Dear DC:

How about a story in which Alfred Pennyworth plays an important role? Alfred is comicdom's finest supporting character and possesses many useful talents that should be more frequently spotlighted. On top of his skills as a gentleman's gentleman, his ultra-loyalty and dedication to *Batman's* cause, and his own devotion to the war on evil, Alfred must possess some unique traits thats that would fit into a case his master is working on. How about making use of it?

WALLACE L. HOPKINS
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Just as there are a number of artists handling The Batman, there are also a variety of writers. Perhaps your plea will persuade one of them to make use of everybody's favorite butler! Meantime, check back next issue for more excitement as the DC EXPLOSION goes on!—Bob Rozakis

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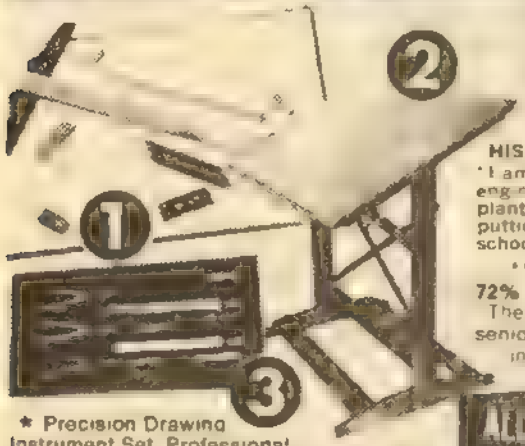

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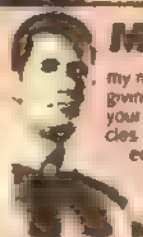

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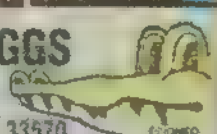

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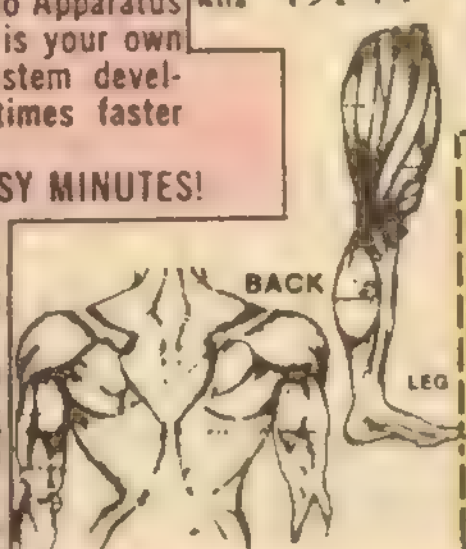

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TO KEEP AN *URGENT* APPOINTMENT!

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5-29/2

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THE ONE PERSON I'D NEVER KEEP WAITING!--AND I ALMOST FORGOT!

SHORTLY...

RIGHT ON TIME FOR YOUR 2:30 APPOINTMENT, MR WAYNE! YOU'RE THE DOCTOR'S LAST PATIENT FOR THE DAY!

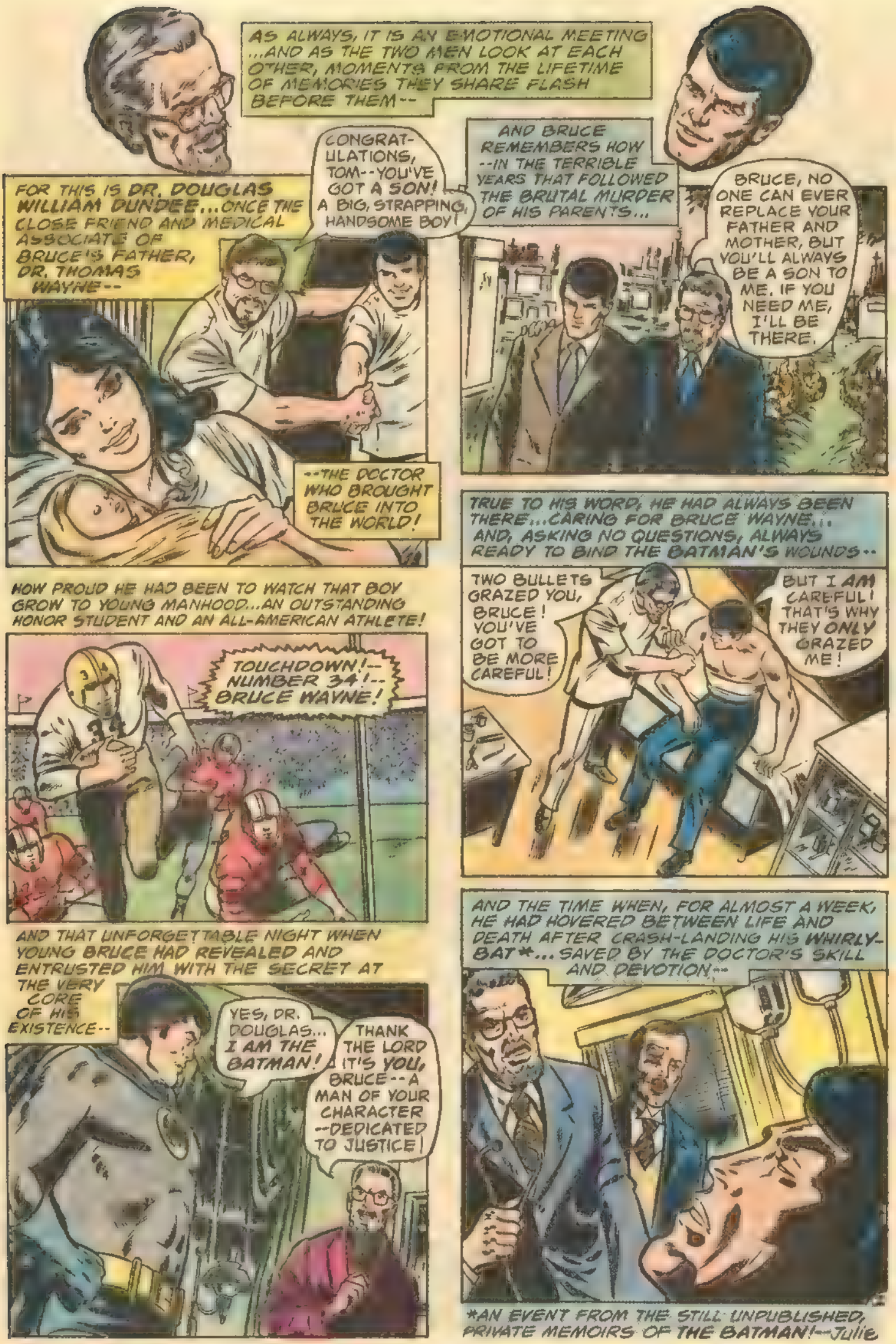
DR. D W DUNDEE MD PC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

GOOD!

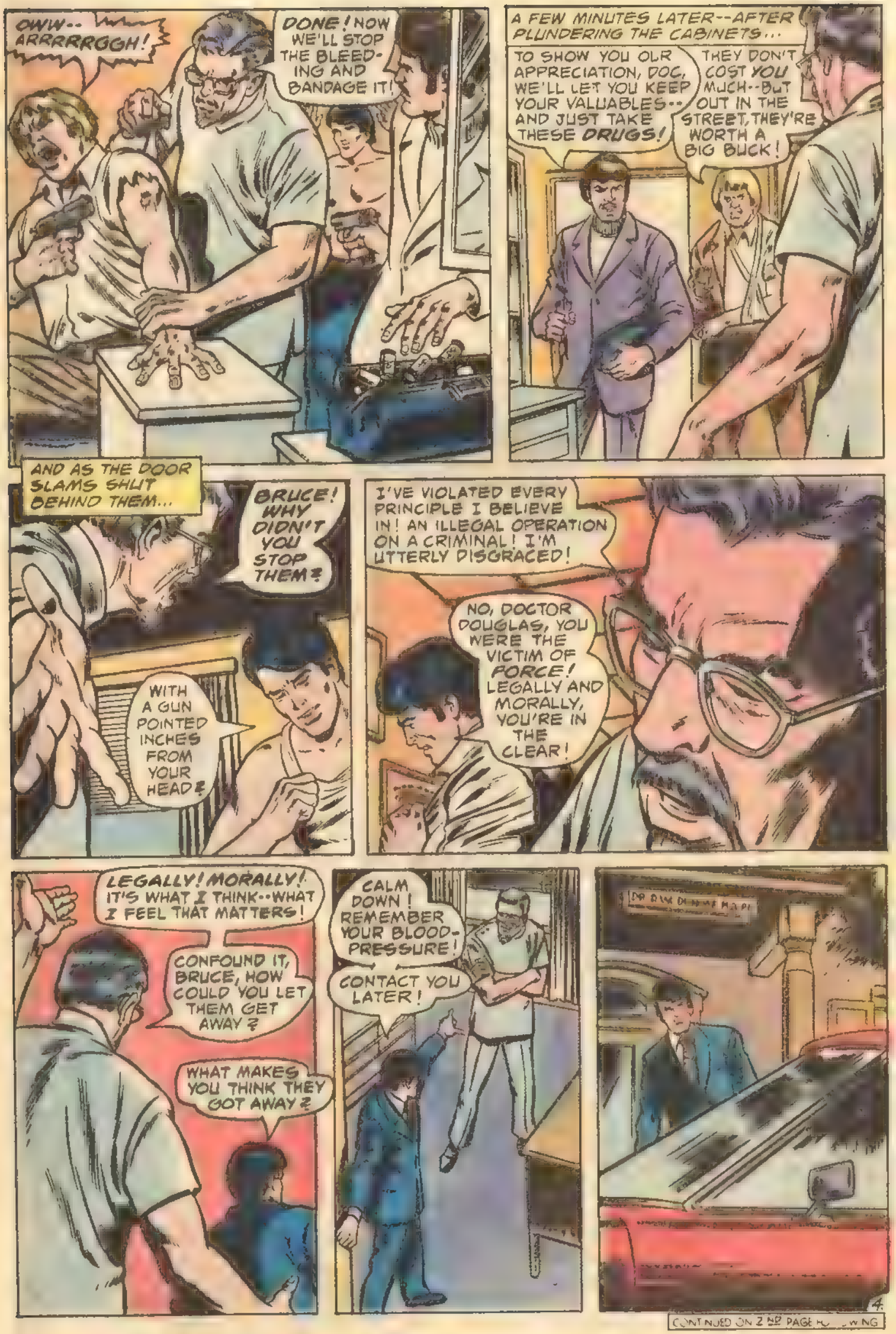
DR. DOUGLAS!

BRUCE!

GREAT TO SEE YOU!


AS ALWAYS, IT IS AN EMOTIONAL MEETING ...AND AS THE TWO MEN LOOK AT EACH OTHER, MOMENTS FROM THE LIFETIME OF MEMORIES THEY SHARE FLASH BEFORE THEM--
AND BRUCE REMEMBERS HOW --IN THE TERRIBLE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED THE BRUTAL MURDER OF HIS PARENTS...
BRUCE, NO ONE CAN EVER REPLACE YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, BUT YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A SON TO ME. IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE THERE.
FOR THIS IS DR. DOUGLAS WILLIAM DUNDEE...ONCE THE CLOSE FRIEND AND MEDICAL ASSOCIATE OF BRUCE'S FATHER, DR. THOMAS WAYNE--
CONGRATULATIONS, TOM--YOU'VE GOT A SON! A BIG, STRAPPING, HANDSOME BOY!
--THE DOCTOR WHO BROUGHT BRUCE INTO THE WORLD!
TRUE TO HIS WORD, HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN THERE...CARING FOR BRUCE WAYNE... AND, ASKING NO QUESTIONS, ALWAYS READY TO BIND THE BATMAN'S WOUNDS--
TWO BULLETS GRAZED YOU, BRUCE! YOU'VE GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL!
BUT I AM CAREFUL! THAT'S WHY THEY ONLY GRAZED ME!
HOW PROUD HE HAD BEEN TO WATCH THAT BOY GROW TO YOUNG MANHOOD...AN OUTSTANDING HONOR STUDENT AND AN ALL-AMERICAN ATHLETE!
TOUCHDOWN!-- NUMBER 34!-- BRUCE WAYNE!
AND THAT UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT WHEN YOUNG BRUCE HAD REVEALED AND ENTRUSTED HIM WITH THE SECRET AT THE VERY CORE OF HIS EXISTENCE--
YES, DR. DOUGLAS... I AM THE BATMAN!
THANK THE LORD IT'S YOU, BRUCE--A MAN OF YOUR CHARACTER --DEDICATED TO JUSTICE!
AND THE TIME WHEN, FOR ALMOST A WEEK, HE HAD HOVERED BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH AFTER CRASH-LANDING HIS WHIRLY-BAT*... SAVED BY THE DOCTOR'S SKILL AND DEVOTION--
*AN EVENT FROM THE STILL UNPUBLISHED, PRIVATE MEMOIRS OF THE BATMAN!--Julie

AND NOW...
ANYTHING ELSE BEFORE I LEAVE, DOCTOR?
NO, MISS ADAMS, THIS IS JUST MR. WAYNE'S REGULAR CHECKUP..HE'S ALWAYS IN PERFECT SHAPE.
STILL GETTING ALONG ON FOUR HOURS OF SLEEP A DAY?
WHEN I CAN GET IT!
I READ SOMETHING IN "PEOPLE" MAGAZINE ABOUT YOU GIVING UP YOUR BACHELORHOOD. ANYTHING TO IT?
NOPE! UNTIL YOU GET A WEDDING INVITATION, PAY NO ATTENTION!
ALL AT ONCE--
MY BUDDY HERE NEEDS A DOCTOR BAD--AND YOU'RE ELECTED!
I STOPPED A SLUG! JUST TAKE CARE OF ME--THAT'S ALL WE WANT!
THE DOCTOR HESITATES...GLANCES EXPECTANTLY AT BRUCE...AND WHEN NOTHING HAPPENS...
I M SORRY, BUT IT'S AGAINST MY--
SHUT UP-- AND GET MOVING!
AGAIN THE DOCTOR LOOKS TO BRUCE-- AND THIS TIME...
DOCTOR, I THINK YOU'D BETTER HURRY AND DO AS THEY SAY!
WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, DR. DUNDEE GETS TO WORK...PROBING FOR THE BULLET--
Hmm...THREE FINGERTIPS OF HIS LEFT HAND ARE STAINED A PALE BLUE!
3


OWW.. ARRRRRGGH!
DONE! NOW WE'LL STOP THE BLEEDING AND BANDAGE IT!
A FEW MINUTES LATER--AFTER PLUNDERING THE CABINETS...
TO SHOW YOU OUR APPRECIATION, DOC, WE'LL LET YOU KEEP YOUR VALUABLES.. AND JUST TAKE THESE DRUGS!
THEY DON'T COST YOU MUCH--BUT OUT IN THE STREET, THEY'RE WORTH A BIG BUCK!
AND AS THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT BEHIND THEM...
BRUCE! WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP THEM?
WITH A GUN POINTED INCHES FROM YOUR HEAD?
I'VE VIOLATED EVERY PRINCIPLE I BELIEVE IN! AN ILLEGAL OPERATION ON A CRIMINAL! I'M UTTERLY DISGRACED!
NO, DOCTOR DOUGLAS, YOU WERE THE VICTIM OF FORCE! LEGALLY AND MORALLY, YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR!
LEGALLY! MORALLY! IT'S WHAT I THINK--WHAT I FEEL THAT MATTERS!
CONFOUND IT, BRUCE, HOW COULD YOU LET THEM GET AWAY?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THEY GOT AWAY?
CALM DOWN! REMEMBER YOUR BLOOD-PRESSURE!
CONTACT YOU LATER!
4
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THOSE FINGERTIPS WERE BLUE FROM BILLIARD CUE CHALK DUST! HE MUST'VE BEEN PLAYING POOL SOMEWHERE WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTED!
AND NO ONE WITH A WOUND BLEEDING THAT HEAVILY WOULD DO ANYTHING BUT RUSH TO THE NEAREST DOCTOR!
A BRIEF BUT THOROUGH TOUR, AND--
YEP! NOT ONLY THE CLOSEST, BUT THE ONLY POOL ROOM IN THE VICINITY!
THE IDLE HOUR Billiard Academy
SOMEONE COMING OUT! I LIKE HIS LOOKS--BECAUSE HE LOOKS LIKE HE AND MONEY DON'T GET TOGETHER VERY OFTEN--SO LET'S SEE!
BRUCE PULLS AWAY, DRIVES AHEAD A BIT, THEN--
HEY, BO--HOW'D YOU LIKE TO MAKE A FAST FIVE HUNDRED BUCKS?
FIVE C-NOTES? FOR WHAT?
I'M A REPORTER FOR THE NEWS! TELL ME ABOUT THE SHOOTING AT THE IDLE HOUR A LITTLE WHILE AGO!
YOU GOT A DEAL! TWO LOCAL POOL HUSTLERS TRIED TO TAKE A MARK! BUT HE DUG THE STORY AND WOULDN'T PAY OFF!
SO ONE OF 'EM PULLS A GUN... THERE'S A FIGHT... THE HUSTLER GETS SHOT WITH HIS OWN GUN...THE MARK DISAPPEARS AND THE OTHER TWO LAM OUT!
THAT'S IT--NO COPS, NO NOTHIN'--JUST A PRIVATE ARGUMENT!
WHO WAS THE MAN THAT GOT SHOT AND WHERE DOES HE LIVE?
HOTFOOT HARRY GELSEY--71 CANTON STREET!
HERE'S YOUR LOOT!
THANKS! I GOT BIG EARS... MAYBE WE CAN DO BUSINESS AGAIN SOME TIME!
UH-HUH... I HAVE A FEELING WE WILL!
5

AFTER WHICH BRUCE IMMEDIATELY GOES OFF ON A WHIRLWIND SHOPPING SPREE: FIRST--
WHAT SORT OF A DOLL ARE YOU LOOKING FOR, SIR?
ONE WITH THICK HAIR IN A LIGHT SHADE--LIKE THIS ONE!
NEXT--
YOU WANT THESE GLASSES--BUT YOU HAVE NO PRESCRIPTION?
THEY'RE JUST FOR AN IMPROMPTU COSTUME PARTY!
FOLLOWED BY--
THIS IS OUR MOST COMPLETE MAKEUP KIT. SHALL I HAVE IT GIFT-WRAPPED?
COSME
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY--IT'S FOR ME!
AND FINALLY--
I'LL GIVE YOU $100 FOR THE UNIFORM YOU'RE WEARING!
WHAT IS THIS--A LAUNDRY COMMERCIAL?
OKAY! YOU GOT IT!
THEN--A SECLUDED INTERVAL IN THE PARK, WHERE HE APPLIES HIS CONSUMMATE SKILL IN THE ARTS OF DISGUISE.
THAT'S THE SHAPE! NOW TO MATCH THE COLOR!
AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD, WHEN BRUCE WAYNE'S CONVERTIBLE STOPS AT 71 CANTON STREET, OUT COMES...
TWO FLIGHTS UP--
RAP! RAP!
WHO'S THERE?
DR. DUNDEE! I DIDN'T FINISH THE JOB!

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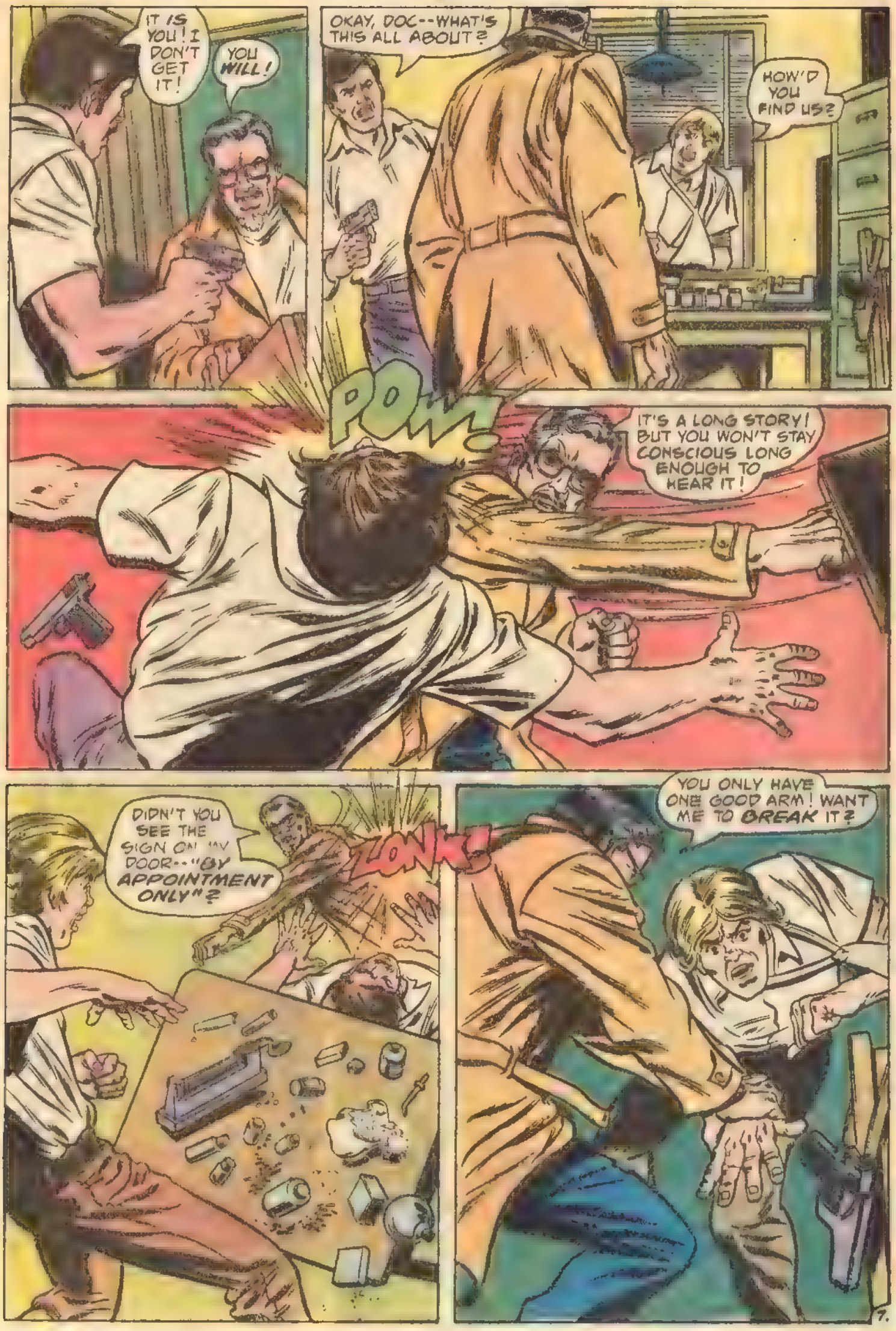
IT IS YOU! I DON'T GET IT!
YOU WILL!
OKAY, DOC--WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
HOW'D YOU FIND US?
POW!
IT'S A LONG STORY! BUT YOU WON'T STAY CONSCIOUS LONG ENOUGH TO HEAR IT!
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE SIGN ON MY DOOR--"BY APPOINTMENT ONLY"?
CLONK!
YOU ONLY HAVE ONE GOOD ARM! WANT ME TO BREAK IT?

I'D RATHER BREAK YOUR HEAD--
--AND POUND SOME SENSE INTO IT!
POW
7 O'CLOCK THAT EVENING, AT BRUCE WAYNE'S PENTHOUSE...
R-R-RING!
BRUCE THIS IS DR. DUNDEE! HAVE YOU SEEN THE EVENING PAPER?
YES! BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?
GOTHIC GAZETTE
SENIOR CITIZEN MEDICO "CURES" TWO THUGS!
BEAUTIFUL, YES! BUT ALL THIS PUBLICITY!
DON'T KNOCK IT, DOCTOR! THIS STORY'LL PUT YOU OFF LIMITS FOR EVERY CROOK IN TOWN! IT'S GOING TO BE NICE AND QUIET AROUND YOUR OFFICE FOR A LONG TIME!
SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!
AND I'LL SEE YOU AT BREAKFAST, ALFRED!
BUT, SIR, YOU NEVER TOOK YOUR AFTERNOON NAP-- AND YOU SCARCELY TOUCHED DINNER!
THAT'S HOW IT GOES, ALFRED! TIME TO GO TO WORK!
WORK? WHAT DOES HE CALL WHAT HE DID THIS AFTERNOON?
NEXT ISSUE--A NEW UNSOLVED CASE OF THE BATMAN!

DC Publishorial

Though you're used to reading biographies of our staffers in the regular DC Profiles column, we thought this particular bio deserved a bit more space. Thus, we are pre-empting this month's Publishorial in order to bring you. . . .

What can you say about a person who, in just two years as publisher of DC Comics, has managed to stand the entire industry up on its collective ear? Who changed policies which have been pillars of the industry for four decades?

Since Ground Hog's Day, 1976—the day Jenette Kahn became publisher of National Periodical Publications, later DC Comics Inc.—change has been the by-word. To begin with, many of the top talents in the industry have returned to the fold under Jenette's guidance.

The policy of paying for reprinted material is one reason these people have returned. Guaranteeing that new titles will get a fair chance to make it (generally speaking, at least five issues) and that creators will be able to stay with their books—that's certainly attractive. Should a new creation become the next *Superman,* the fact that DC will share part of the merchandising profits with the creator is also appealing.

These accomplishments, however, are but the tip of the proverbial ice-berg where Jenette's tenure as publisher is concerned. But, before that, perhaps a few words about Ms. Kahn's background would be in order.

Jenette was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania (her folks lived in nearby State College, Pa., but that town didn't have a hospital) in 1947. It was during those formative years in State College that Jenette, along with her older brother, discovered that world of delights which remain with her to this day: pin-ball machines, miniature golf, soft ice cream . . . oh yes, and comics!

Jenette's father, Rabbi Benjamin Kahn, was an avid reader of the newspaper comic strips, a habit he passed on to his children. Jenette recalls sitting with her father and learning to read from the comics. But it was her brother who introduced Jenette to comic *books,* and from them she learned to love two characters in particular, *The Batman* and *Uncle Scrooge.* They still remain her favorites.

The Kahns moved to Washington when Jenette was twelve, and a few years later she made a move of her own to Radcliffe College where she majored in Twentieth Century Art History.

Right out of college, Jenette was awarded a fellowship to study at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, further pursuing her college major. After that, she received a grant to put together an exhibit of photographs, a process, she later discovered, much like that involved in publishing a magazine.

But Jenette did not have this realization until after she had started work on *Kids,* her first publishing venture. *Kids* was a unique magazine, written and drawn *by* kids *for* kids, as well as an interesting experiment in publishing.

Jenette was only twenty-two when *Kids* began, but she was all ready bitten with the print-bug. *Kids* changed publishers twice before Jenette parted ways with her . . . kid! But she did not stay out of publishing long, and within the year she had become partners with Scholastic Magazines to produce *Dynamite.*

With *Dynamite,* Jenette went back to the things she loved as a child—television shows, fads, bubble gum cards, comic books—and made them the focus of the magazine. One of the regular features was "Super-Hero Confidential," which featured the origins of super-heroes.

Not content to rest on her laurels, Jenette left *Dynamite.* Along with art director Milton Glaser (designer and art director on such magazines as *New York* and *Esquire),* she created *Smash,* published by Xerox. Though *Smash's* content was similar to *Dynamite's,* Jenette felt this new magazine represented a challenge.

And just as obviously, the folks at Warner Communications felt she was up to an even bigger challenge! Because of her background in publishing and her intimate involvement in the comic art medium, the higher-ups at Warners felt Jenette Kahn was the natural selection for the post of publisher at DC.

Since taking up her duties, Jenette has greatly revitalized DC Comics in both look and format. The line of Dollar Comics was one of her first steps, along with the redesigning of the cover format by the award-winning Mr. Glaser. She encouraged the creation of new characters and features and gave old titles and characters a second chance on the newsstands.

Under Jenette's guidance, DC Comics has recently pioneered a whole new direction with the implementation of the new extra-pages 50¢ format.

Over the years, Jenette has hung on to her exuberence for the fantastic, a trait which serves her well as publisher of DC Comics . . . as well as bringing added excitement to those of you who read our comics!

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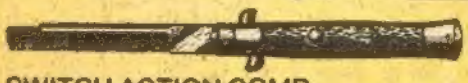

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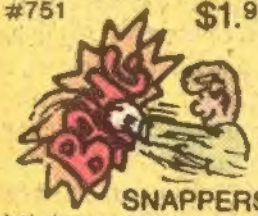

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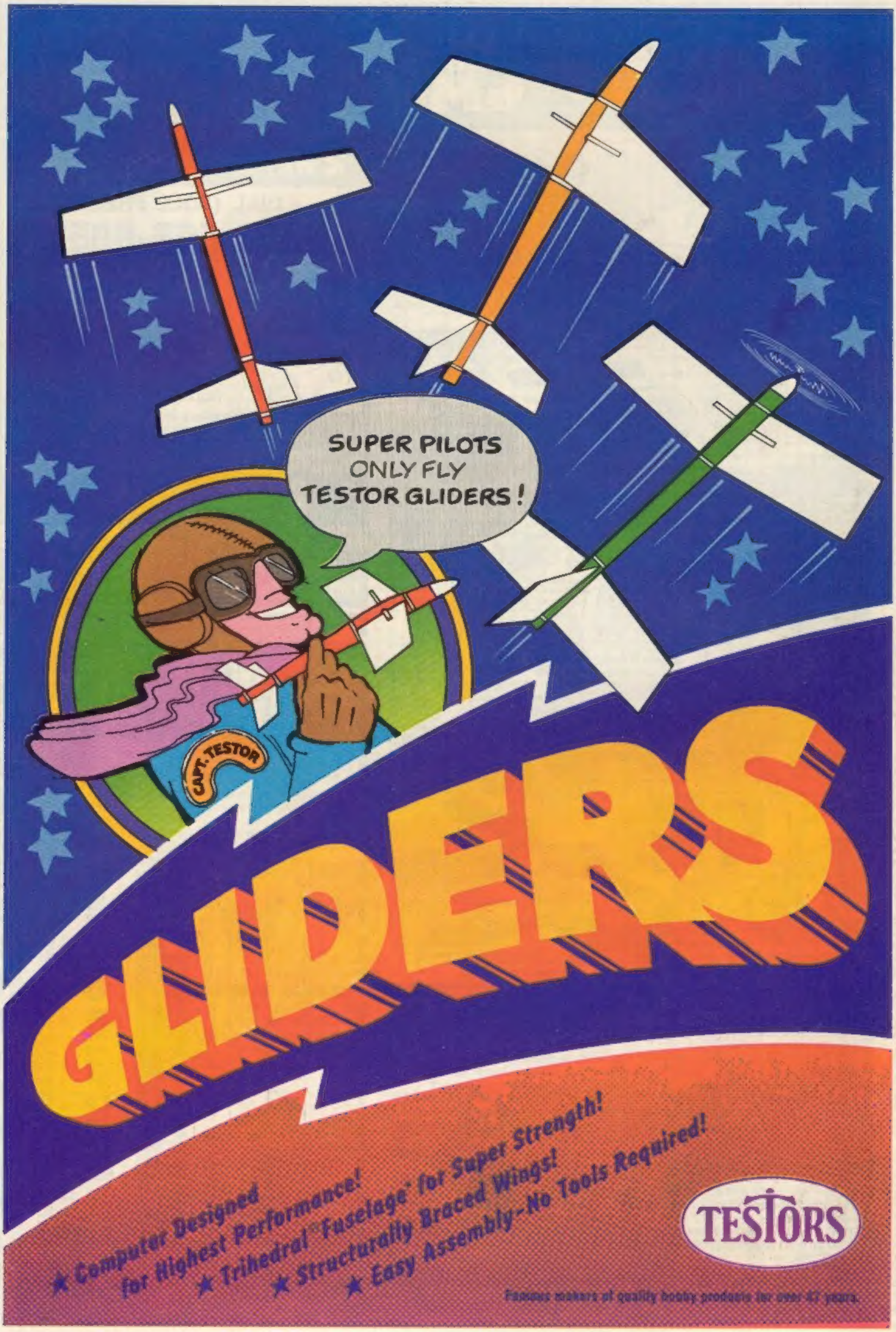
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